

Juvenile Crime Enforcement and Accountability Challenge Grant Program

In FY 1996/97, the Legislature created the Juvenile Crime Enforcement and Accountability Challenge Grant Program (Challenge Grant). There is widespread support among state and local policymakers for this \$50 million demonstration program, which is designed to identify effective approaches to reducing crime and delinquency.

The BOC awarded planning grants totaling over \$1.7 million to the 52 counties requesting funds to develop a local action plan (LAP) showing how unique county-based efforts could reduce juvenile crime through prevention, intervention, diversion, suppression and incapacitation. In FY 1996/97, these counties established local multi-agency juvenile justice coordinating councils (chaired by chief probation officers) and completed their LAPs.

The BOC requested proposals for grants to implement Challenge Grant demonstration programs. Fifty-one of California's 58 counties submitted proposals requesting over \$137 million (of an available \$45.7 million). The BOC formed an executive steering committee comprised of a county supervisor, former chief probation officer, state corrections officials, and other experts who reviewed proposals and developed funding recommendations based on evaluation criteria specified by the Legislature including:

- ✓ size of high-risk youth population;
- ✓ likelihood of program continuation after state funding ends;
- ✓ ability to implement a collaborative plan to reduce juvenile crime and delinquency; and
- ✓ ability to provide a continuum of responses to juvenile crime (prevention, intervention, diversion, suppression and incapacitation).

Following a highly competitive proposal evaluation process, the BOC awarded \$45.7 million in three-year grants to 14 counties which are now under contract to implement 29 community-based demonstration programs. Figure 9 lists these counties and their grant funding.

Challenge Grant programs span a broad range of interventions, including truancy prevention, parent accountability, early offender intervention, restorative justice, and school-based services. Appendix G provides a description of each of the Challenge Grant demonstration projects. Counties must use grants to supplement, not supplant, local programs, and must provide a 25 percent match (cash or in-kind).

In the 1998/99 State budget, the Legislature appropriated \$60 million in additional funds for the Challenge Grant Program. BOC's next biennial legislative report will include the allocation of these funds.

Figure 9

**CHALLENGE GRANT DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS
COUNTIES RECEIVING STATE GRANTS THROUGH FY 1997/98**

County	Grant Funding (Three Years)
Alameda	\$5,400,000
Contra Costa	1,462,776
Humboldt	1,468,866
Orange	2,962,777
Sacramento	3,802,414
San Bernardino	4,242,894
San Diego	4,956,578
San Francisco	5,407,983
San Joaquin	1,607,933
Santa Barbara	4,800,432
Santa Clara	3,000,000
Stanislaus	1,434,466
Tehama	808,797
Ventura	4,527,100
Total:	\$ 45,700,000

All 29 demonstration programs are now operational. The BOC, in cooperation with the funded counties, developed a formal program evaluation design. Counties have hired outside evaluators, or are using county evaluators, to assess program effectiveness. In addition to unique local measures of effectiveness, the BOC is collecting data from all counties on a variety of common outcome measures to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the Challenge Grant program. This statewide evaluation will include three outcome measures required by the Legislature: 1) juvenile arrests per 100,000 of population; 2) successful completion of probation; and 3) successful completion of victim restitution and/or court-ordered community service work.

BOC staff provides project oversight and technical assistance as needed to each county program, and participates with local program staff and evaluators in quarterly project meetings. The BOC must submit an interim report to the Legislature by March 1, 1999, and a final report that includes evaluation results of each program by March 1, 2001.